



October 17, 2005

Dear Community Friends:

Halloween Safety Tips

Halloween is only two weeks away. It is an important time to be extra vigilant for possible safety hazards so that we can all have a fun and safe Halloween. The following tips are from www.keepkidshealthy.com, a pediatric health website. You can check for additional safety tips by putting the phrase "Halloween Safety Tips" in the Search function of your Internet browser.

Costume safety

- Choose a costume made of flame retardant material
- Costumes should be short enough so that they don't cause children to trip and fall
- For good visibility, add some reflective tape to the costume or bag children use to carry candy, or make/choose a costume made of bright material that is visible in the dark
- Masks should fit securely and allow children to see well and not hinder visibility
- If using face paint, make sure it is nontoxic and hypoallergenic
- Knives, swords and other props should be made of a flexible material, so that they don't pose a hazard if fallen on

Trick-or-Treating safety

- Children should be well supervised by an adult when trick-or-treating. Older children should trick-or-treat in large groups in well-known neighborhoods
- Carry a flashlight
- Stick to well lit houses in familiar neighborhoods only
- Follow traffic signals and rules of the road
- Drive slowly
- Avoid taking shortcuts across backyards or alleys. Stick to the sidewalks of well lit streets

Candy safety

- Instruct children to bring all candy home before eating it so that an adult can carefully inspect it for tampering

- Children shouldn't snack while they're out trick-or-treating, before parents have a chance to inspect the goodies. To help prevent children from munching, give them a snack or light meal before they go -- don't send them out on an empty stomach

- Tell children not to accept -- and, especially, not to eat--anything that isn't commercially wrapped
- Throw out candy or treats that are homemade, unwrapped or if they appear to have been tampered with (pinholes in wrappers, torn wrappers, etc.)
- Parents of young children should remove any choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies or small toys
- Wash all fresh fruit thoroughly, inspect it for holes, including small punctures, and cut it open before allowing children to eat it

Good Luck, Sgt. Granard!

Sgt. Cindy Granard has led the South Precinct's Community Police Team for the past 2½ years. She is going to a new assignment with the Department's Evidence Unit. Those of you who have had an opportunity to work with her know her energy, vitality, commitment to the community and probably the best smile and laugh of anyone who has ever worn the uniform. Those of us who have worked with and for her are sad to see her go, but applaud her selection for this important position. Sgt. Granard, we'll miss you!

Welcome, Sgt. Daman!

While we say "Bonne Chance" to Sgt. Granard, we say "Bienvenue" to Sgt. Steve Daman. Sgt. Daman comes to the Community Police Team from First Watch Patrol. He will be introduced to you more fully in our following newsletter.

Take Care and Stay Safe!

Mark Solomon, SPD South Precinct Crime Prevention